

Message Text

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42

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 AF-06 H-02 USIA-06 SAM-01

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P 091730Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5591

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SEDU, PO (COSTA, ALMEIDA E)

SUBJ: 1976 LEADER GRANT FOR INTERIOR MINISTER

REF: KELLY-THOMAS JAN 8 TELECON

1. MINISTER FOR INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION ALMEIDA E COSTA TOLD POLCOUNS JAN 7 THAT HE BELIEVED HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SPEND 10 DAYS IN THE UNITED STATES RATHER THAN THE TWO OR THREE HE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT. HE IS GOING TO CHECK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN NEXT DAY OR TWO.

2. IF ALMEIDA E COSTA CAN GET AWAY FOR 10 DAYS, WE SHALL PROPOSE HIM FOR A LEADER GRANT. WE EXPECT THAT ALMEIDA E COSTA WILL BE INTERESTED IN TALKING WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS IN WASHINGTON, CALLING ON THE CNO, MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN, AND VISITING AZORES COMMUNITY IN THE US. KENNEDY STAFFER HUNTER TOLD ALMEIDA E COSTA THAT SENATOR KENNEDY AND OTHER CONGRESSMEN WILL BE INTERESTED IN SEEING HIM. ALMEIDA E COSTA SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

3. ALMEIDA E COSTA IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE MEMBERS OF PORTUGUESE NAVY AND OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF IN MOZAMBIQUE AT THE TIME OF THE APRIL 1974 COUP, HE LATER HEADED UP THE OFFICE IN CHARGE OF PREPARING 1975 ELECTIONS. HIS ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTIONS CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS OUTSTANDING. SOLIDLY PRO-WEST, ANTI-

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COMMUNIST, PRO-DEMOCRATIC, HE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FIGURE

IN THE FUTURE OF PORTUGAL.
CARLUCCI

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